AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Below is a complete listing of the revised claims with a status identifier in parenthesis for each claim.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) In a vehicle controller having a microprocessor connected to a reprogrammable memory for storing an application program and to a communications port for communicating with a reprogramming device, a flashloader firmware comprising:

a standard module for receiving programming instructions and the application program via the communications port;

an MCU module for writing the received application program to the reprogrammable memory; and

an ECU module for determining whether a valid application program has been stored in the reprogrammable memory and further for placing the vehicle controller in one of a low power state and a power-down state after a predetermined amount of time;

wherein upon detection of a valid application program the microprocessor executes instructions from the reprogrammable memory and upon detection of an invalid application program the microprocessor continues to execute instructions from the flashloader.

2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Cancelled)

3

Serial No. 10/634,527   706139US2

4.   (Currently Amended) The vehicle controller flashloader of claim 2 1 further comprising the ECU module being operative to periodically attempt to place the vehicle controller in one of a the low power state and a the power-down state when the software module expects programming instructions to arrive via the communications port and the programming instructions have been received after the predetermined amount of time.

4